

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 ERDA-05 DODE-00

FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INT-05 L-02 NSC-05 PM-03 OES-03

SS-15 /094 W

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P R 171831Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8487

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS PRIORITY 448

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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TAGS: PFOR, ENRG

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN COUNCIL: WELLENSTEIN'S VIEWS ON ENERGY

REFS: EC BRUSSELS 2302

COPENHAGEN 0756

DUBLIN 483

PARIS 6536

1. SUMMARY: EC DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS  
EDMUND WELLENSTEIN HAS GIVEN US HIS VIEWS ON THE ENERGY  
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ASPECTS OF THE DUBLIN EUROPEAN COUNCIL. WELLENSTIN,

WHO IS TO BE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NEW EC HIGH-LEVEL AD HOC GROUP, SAID THE GROUP WAS SET UP, AT THE INITIATIVE OF FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, TO PROVIDE BROADER "HORIZONTAL" COORDINATION ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS RELATING TO THE FORTHCOMING PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE. THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO THE EXISTING EC HIGH-LEVEL ENERGY GROUP WHICH HAS "VERTICAL" RESPONSIBILITIES. WELLENSTEIN, RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO SORT OUT RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VARIOUS COMMUNITY BODIES CONCERNED, NEVERTHELESS, THOUGHT CREATION OF THE AD HOC GROUP WOULD BE USEFUL PARTICULARLY BECAUSE IT WOULD INVOLVE THE FRENCH MORE FORMALLY AND MORE FULLY IN EC PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENERAL EDMUND WELLENSTEIN ON MARCH 17 GAVE US SOME OF THE BACKGROUND ON THE DISCUSSION OF ENERGY BY THE EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN DUBLIN MARCH 10-11. HE SAID THAT, AT SCHMIDT'S INITIATIVE, A NEW HIGH-LEVEL AD HOC GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY PREPARATIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONFERENCE HAS BEEN SET UP.

3. THE NEW GROUP, AT EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI'S STRONG SUGGESTION, WILL BE WITHIN THE FORMAL COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK. IT WILL THUS REPORT TO THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL VIA THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER), RATHER THAN DIRECTLY TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. ACCORDING TO WELLENSTEIN, SCHMIDT ARGUED THAT THE CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONFERENCE WILL GO BEYOND NARROW QUESTIONS STRICTLY RELATED TO PETROLEUM, E.G. BROADER IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY. THEREFORE, HE MAINTAINED SOMETHING BROADER THAN AN ENERGY GROUP WAS NEEDED.

4. THE COMMISSION HAD ANTICIPATED THAT THE AD HOC GROUP'S MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE DIFFERENT FROM THE EXISTING EC GROUPS IN THE ENERGY FIELD. FOR THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REASON ORTOLI ASKED WELLENSTEIN TO REPRESENT THE COMMISSION. NOW, SOMEWHAT TO WELLENSTEIN'S SURPRISE, IT LOOKS AS IF THE AD HOC GROUP WILL BE MADE UP OF THE SAME SENIOR ENERGY OFFICIALS WHO REPRESENT THEIR COUNTRIES AT THE IEA AND AT THE VARIOUS EC BODIES -- THE ENERGY COMMITTEE, THE ENERGY GROUP AND EC CAUCUS IN PARIS PRIOR TO IEA GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS. (SPECIFICALLY, WILLIAMS, ROHWEDDER

AND DAVIGNON WERE MENTIONED).

5. BECAUSE OF THEIR INTER LOCKING MEMBERSHIP, IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW THE NEW AD HOC GROUP WILL FUNCTION IN PRACTICE IN RELATION TO THE ALREADY EXISTING BODIES. IN TERMS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE CHARTERS, HOWEVER, THE NEW AD HOC GROUP IS "HORIZONTAL" COVERING ALL POTENTIAL CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONFERENCE TOPICS, AND THE OTHER EC GROUPS ARE "VERTICAL" COVERING ONLY ENERGY. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, CASPARI, WELLENSTEIN'S DEPUTY WHO DEALS WITH ENERGY, SAID HE SAW NO PROBLEM OF COORDINATING BETWEEN THE EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIRECTORATE GENERAL AND THE ENERGY DIRECTORATE GENERAL. SPAAK AND WELLENSTEIN ARE OLD FRIENDS AND HAVE WORKED WELL TOGETHER FOR YEARS. SPAAK WILL PROBABLY SIT IN ON MEETINGS OF THE AD HOC GROUP JUST AS CASPARI NOW ATTENDS IEA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING.

6. WELLENSTEIN SAID THE FORMATION OF THE AD HOC GROUP WOULD SERVE TO BRING THE FRENCH MORE FULLY INTO A COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK AS REGARDS CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS. NOW, INSTEAD OF THE PREVIOUS INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AND PERIODIC COUNCIL DISCUSSION, EC-NINE COORDINATION RELATING TO THE CONFERENCE WILL BE REGULARIZED AT THE SENIOR OFFICIAL LEVEL.

7. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW AD HOC ENERGY GROUP IS TO TAKE PLACE IN PARIS ON MARCH 19 JUST PRIOR TO THE IEA MEETING. GREENWALD

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